

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03553 201550Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 201512Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 303

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, PINS

SUBJ: FORMER PRIME MINISTER PALMA CARLOS QUILTS PARTIDO

SOCIAL DEMOCRATA PORTUGUESE

REF: LISBON 3008

SUMMARY: PALMA CARLOS RESIGNS FROM NEW CENTER-LEFT PARTY HE HELPED FOUND FEW WEEKS AGO- PARTY APPEARS DESTINED TO WITHER AWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER ITS CREATION, THE NEW PARTIDO SOCIAL DEMOCRATA PORTUGUESE (PSD) HAS SUFFERED ITS FIRST SCHISM. CAUSE OF DISPUTE NOT KNOWN FOR CERTAIN, BUT APPARENTLY RESULTED FROM UNWILLINGNESS OF SOME ELEMENTS TO SUBSCRIBE TO THAT PART OF PROGRAM STATING THAT PSD GOAL IS THE REALIZATION OF NON-MARXIST SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL.

2. AMONG THOSE LEAVING PARTY WAS ADELINO PALMA CARLOS, WHO AMONG ITS FOUNDERS. PRESS SPECULATES THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER OPOSED SOCIALIST ORIENTATION OF PSD AND WANTED INSTAED TO SEE PARTY MOVE TOWARDS ACCOMMODATION WITH POLICAL RIGHT. APPARENTLY REBUFFED BY PARTY DIRECTORATE,

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PAGE 02 LISBON 03553 201550Z

PALMO CARLOS DECIDED TO QUIT PARTY, WHICH HE DID WITHOUT

MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT. HOSRTLY THEREAFTER ONE COMMENTATOR FOR DIARIO LISBOA WROTE WITH BARELY CONCEALED AMUSEMENT THAT ON DEPARTURE PALMA CARLOS DEMANDED AND RECEIVED BACK FURNISTURE HE HAD LENT PARTY FOR USE IN ITS HEADQUARTERS.

3. COMMENT: INFORMED OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT PSD CREATED ON OFF/CHANCE THAT IT COULD SPLIT PPD AND ABSORB A SIZEABLE ENOUGH PORTION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP TO BECOME VIABLE. HOW THEY HOPED TO DIVIDE PPD IS NOT CLEAR, BUT AT ANY RATE THE PPD WAS NOT SPLIT, AND THE PSD ATROPHIED. IN SHORT WEEKS OF ITS EXISTENCE IT HAS SHOWN NO DISCERNIBLE SIGNS OF LIFE. IT HAS HELD NO PUBLIC MEETINGS AND LEADERS HAVE GIVEN NO PRESS INTERVIEWS. AT TIME OF ITS SCHISM IT PROBABLY HAD NO MRE THAN A FEW HUNDRED SYMPATHIZERS.

4. PARTY WILL PROBABLY NOW WITHER AWAY, OR BE EXTERMINATED BY NEW ELECTROAL LAW NOW IN LAST STAGES OF PREPARATION. AT ANY RATE PARTY IS DISCOUNTED AS POLITICAL FORCE WITH ANY WEIGTH. PALMA CARLOS' DEPARTURE SYMPTOMATIC, NOT CAUSE OF PSD DEMISE, AND IS FACE SAVING WAY FOR HIM TO LEAVE SINKING SHIP.
POST

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Message Attributes

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